

THE
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I R I S H Collieries
AND
CANAL defended,

IN

Answer to a PAMPHLET, Entitled,

A

LETTER

TO A

COMMISSIONER

OF THE

INLAND NAVIGATION,

CONCERNING THE

Tyrone Collieries.

DUBLIN:

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THE
I R I S H Collieries

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CANAL defended, &c.

NEXT to those unhappy Mixtures in the human Mind, of extensive Knowledge and dangerous Errors, much Wit and little Judgment, &c. I know none so unhappy, as a laudable Warmth for the good of our Country, and espousing Measures and Opinions, that will inevitably distress it. Yet it is certain, this last, is the Case of Numbers of Men of all Parties among us, and the most favourable Opinion I can entertain, of the Author of the Letter I am about to answer, is, that however good, he may assure us, his Intentions are, his Method of pursuing them, is Faulty and Exceptionable to the highest Degree.

For fear the publick Good, expected from the *Tyrone Collieries* should be hurt or mismanaged, he has done his utmost, to destroy and overturn it entirely; and has attack'd *the Proprietors of the Tyrone Collieries*, and the Gentlemen who were entrusted with the Execution of the Canal, as if their Errors were absolutely irretrievable, and the whole Design desperate.

I am sure if his Insinuations were just, it would be one of the greatest Misfortunes, that our worst Enemies could wish to befall us, and I can hardly conceive that he could either persuade himself, or labour so much to bring over others to his Opinion, unless he secretly wish'd, to have Things in as bad a Condition, as he represents them.

Had he aim'd at the real Service of our Country, he should have wrote with less Warmth and more Diffidence and Caution, and not endeavour'd to influence our Passions, when he ought only to direct our Judgments. He could not be so ignorant, as not to know, what a Distrust his desperate Way of Writing, would necessarily create in the Minds of such, as are too apt to think the worst of all public Undertakings; and the Coldness, not to say the Aversion this might produce, to (one of the hopefullest Attempts to help this Country) our Canals and our Collieries.

But instead of Complaints and Expostulations, I hope to give such fair and candid Accounts, of both those interesting Affairs, as must fully silence the Malevolence of our Enemies, and the Doubts of our Friends.

As to the Upper Canal, it is well known, that it was fully intended to be finish'd the last Summer, and that the whole of it had been compleated, or nearly compleated, if the excessive Rains which continued for several Months, had not prevented it.

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As to the Collieries, one of them is already set on Foot, in the most effectual Manner ; a second is far advanced, and Preparations are making for fixing a Fire Engine on a Third, which is that on the Lord Primate's Estate. No Cost or Pains have been spared on the Part of the Proprietors, and tho' there are at present, only two Companies formed, who are now at Work on different Collieries, yet as Coal has been happily discovered, on the Estates of some neighbouring Gentlemen, it is not to be doubted, that several other Collieries will soon be set to Work, for the Service of *Ireland*.

But be this as it will, I must let this sagacious Letter-writer know, that Coals are now actually raised, in great Quantities, and of different Kinds ; such as will be greedily bought up at *Dublin*, and yet let the Demand for them there, be ever so high, it is certain and undeniable, that we shall be able to send up as many thousand Tuns, as they can possibly have occasion for. These are great and comfortable Prospects for the Kingdom, as well as the Proprietors, and I am at a Loss to conceive, how the Author of the Letter could entertain so many Doubts of so demonstrable a Point.

His Queries are a Proof, that he is not unacquainted with Colliery Affairs, and it is as evident, that he cannot but know in some Measure, the State of the *Tyrone* Collieries.

This gives Ground to suspect, as I already hinted, that he does not write to be informed, but to inflame and enrage ; to sow Distrust and Discord betwixt the Proprietors in the first Place, and in the next between them and the Navigation Board. To the Latter he has insinuated, that the *Tyrone* Collieries will be deficient in Quantity or Quality, if not in both : To the former, that let the Collieries be what they will, no proper navigable Canal can ever be made. If either of these Facts were true,
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the Publick have been excessively impos'd on, and then the wiser Way would be, for the Board to stop their hand at least, and not proceed a step further ; but both being utterly false, and incontestably so ; who but an Enemy would have taken the Pains he has done, to foment Jealousies, where the utmost Harmony, and the most entire good Understanding, are essentially necessary for our common Interests. Whoever *this Author may be*, whether Envy or Ill-will, Mistake or Malice, have given Birth to his intemperate Production, I shall not examine. My honest Comfort, and that of the Friends of this Kingdom must be, that the Alarm he has endeavour'd to raise, must die away of itself, when the whole of the Facts are fully understood and clearly explained. This I shall here endeavour to do, with all the Calmness and Candour, a Man who pretends to be a Lover of Truth and his Country, should make use of, and who has an equal Contempt for the Meanness of a Lie, whether it be contriv'd to favour or hurt us.

Now as the Author has thought fit, to reduce the Substance of his Pamphlet to Twenty-one Queries, I must observe, that such of them as concern the Navigation Board, I shall leave chiefly to be answer'd by their Director ; which I take for granted, can be done effectually, if they are of weight enough to deserve it. As to those which concern the Collieries and their Proprietors, I think the fairest Method I can take, is to follow our Author in that Track in which he has laid the Way, to re-print the Queries Word for Word, and to give to each of them so distinct and direct an Answer, as shall quite cut off all Reply, if he has any Regard to Decency or Truth.

'Tis to be hop'd, this will be done, as satisfactory and fully, as is here promis'd ; but it must be promis'd, that if any thing be found wanting, it should be imputed to the shortness of Time allowed me.

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It was not thought expedient, to suffer such an In-
 vective to remain un-answered, even for a single
 Day, had it been possible to have prepared a proper
 Reply, at so sudden a Warning. That it would
 get Possession of the unwary and injudicious, the
 malevolent or querulous Part of Mankind is too ob-
 vious. This, as I have already observ'd, was in all
 Likelihood, chiefly intended by it, and might Oc-
 casion its being publish'd at this Juncture; and as it
 had too visible a Tendency, to expose to Obloquy
 certain Gentlemen, who are conscious of no other
 Fault in what they have done, with regard to their
 Collieries, but that of devoting to the Service of the
 Publick, not only their best Endeavours, but their
 Money also; it was highly ungenerous, as well as
 unjust. They agreed to lay out 9000 *l.* as a fair
 Beginning on this Undertaking, and of that, they
 have actually expended 6000 *l.* and this single Con-
 sideration may satisfy any unprejudiced Man, that
 they must for their own Sakes have done their utmost,
 to bring their noble Design to Perfection. Nay, let
 me add here with that honest Emotion, which every
 candid Man must feel, where real Services are repaid
 with Injuries; that if those Gentlemen had failed in
 their generous and well design'd Attempt, they ought
 rather to be honour'd and assisted by the Publick,
 than reproach'd and insulted for it. But when every
 thing they have set about, and the whole of their un-
 dertaking is in so prosperous a Way, and so near
 being perfected: When it amounts to a Certainty,
 that the Expectations of the Publick cannot be fru-
 strated, but by Delays and Neglects of others, for
 which those Gentlemen are no ways accountable; it
 will be hard to imagine how an ingenuous Mind,
 could ever think of opposing or decrying their honest
 and useful Labours.

But it is Time to hasten to his Queris, and the
 first is this.

Query

Query I. What has been the Expence of the Northern Canals, and if the Publick had any other Intent, in that great Work, than the immediate supplying of *Dublin*, and other Parts of the Eastern Coasts of the Kingdom, with Coals from your Works?

How the Proprietors are concern'd in this Question, I cannot see, unless to acknowledge their Obligations, to work their Collieries as effectually, and to sell their Coals as cheaply as can be, both which they are resolved to do. As for the Expence of the Canal, it is quite unknown to them, and can only be determin'd by the Books of the Navigation Board, to which I therefore refer this sagacious Examiner into other People's Affairs.

Query II. What Works have you carried on, and brought to Perfection, in order to answer that Intention?

To this 'tis replied, that a considerable Work has been carried on, in the *Stewart's Town* Colliery, an under-ground Level has been driven, walled and arched 1300 Yards in Length. A Water Engine is also erected there, the Wheel of which is 39 Feet in Diameter, an unexampled Thing in this Part of the World. The Water is pumped up, thro' two sets of Pumps of cast Metal, the first of their Kind, that have been made in *Ireland*. The Bore of the Pumps is 9 Inches and 3 Quarters wide; and the Power of this Engine is such, that it will discharge from the Depth of 100 Yards if necessary, eight Hogsheads of Water every Minute it is kept at Work. The Engine Pit, which is 71 Yards deep, and two other Shafts or Coal Pits near adjoining, are brick'd from Top to Bottom.

The Water for the Wheel, is convey'd to it from the Torrent River, by an expensive Cut, above a Mile in Length, and as it is carried over an Hill, there was a Necessity to form an Aqueduct, supported

ported by 14 Stone Pillars, each of them 21 Feet in heighth. By the working of this Wheel, the whole of the Coal in that Colliery, that lies above the Level of the Engine Pit, will be laid dry ; and there are other Sorts of Coal, as effectually drained, by the underground Level. In a 3d Work it is confessed, that the Water at present is drawn up, only by an Horse Engine. The Shafts in those Works now in Readiness, are not fewer in Number than 15, and I must tell this officious Querist (whether to his Joy or Mortification I know not) that with the necessary Encrease of Hands, 100 Tun of Coals, may be raised in these Works, every 24 Hours.

Query III. Are not 20 Years elapsed, since the Beginning the Canal, and what Coals have been sent to *Dublin*, from any of your Collieries in all that Time ?

To this it is answer'd, that if many more Years had elapsed since the Beginning the Canal, that does in no Shape relate to the Proprietors of the *Tyrone* Collieries. Does the Querist imagine (as he deals much in imagining) that the Coals could be brought to *Dublin*, before the Canals were finish'd ? or does he think that like our Sheep or our Bullocks, they would carry themselves, to the Market. Besides, I must tell this very odd Gentleman, who pretends sometimes so much Ignorance, and at other Times boasts of so much Knowledge, in our Colliery Affairs, that till within this three Years, no Company was form'd, so as to be binding to the Parties, nor no joint Stock settled, to carry on their Business with, which now I must tell him for his, or at least for our great Comfort, is compleatly done.

As to the Cargoes of Coal sent to *Dublin*, 'tis allowed that only four or five were brought thither ; and those barely by way of shewing, the dif-

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ferent Kinds to be had, and the Goodness of them. The Reason no more were sent is obvious, for the Expence of Land Carriage is so great, that it has prevented, and ever will prevent, the bringing any large Quantities thither, till the Canal is finish'd, which it is to be hoped for the Interest of *Ireland*, and to oblige the Querist, it will soon be.

Query IV. Have you satisfied the Publick, that you have in your Power a sufficient Quantity of Coal, answerable to the Demand that there will be for it ?

To this 'tis replied, that satisfactory Proof of that Point, was made before the House of Commons, the latter End of the last Sessions : And if the Querist had consulted their printed Votes, he might have saved the Labour, of making so needless an Enquiry here. But to silence such Doubters, if they are not prejudiced against the Force of all Conviction, this shall be made still more manifest, by the answer to some following Queries, over and above all that is said already.

Query V. If your Quantity is sufficient, will it answer in point of Goodness, so as to be saleable in *Dublin* ?

The Reply is short and plain. There are three different Sorts of Coal in the *Stewart's Town* Works, and as they are all useful and excellent in their different Ways, it is unquestionable and certain, that there must be a very quick Sale of them in *Dublin*, *Drogheda*, and where-ever they are carried along the Eastern Coast.

Query VI. Have you any of the caking Coal, and how near does it lie to the Head of the Canal ?

The answer to this is, as full and exprefs, as the friendly Querist could wish it, and perhaps more so. There is in the Lord Primate's and Mr. *Knox's* Collieries,

lieries, an immense Fund of caking Coal, and it lies at the Distance of about 5000 Yards from the Place appointed, for the Head of the Canal.

Query VII. Have you any of this Coal, except in a small Tract of the Lord Primate's Estate?

This is not so puzzling a Question as the Querist and some good People like him think, who would fain decry our home Collieries. But I must tell him, and his worthy Friends. what is a real Fact, that besides a large Fund of caking Fund, (tho' of a weaker Quality) in the *Stewart's* Town Works, the Lord Primate's has been proved, to have Coal in it of the caking Kind, quite equal in all good Qualities, to the best *Whitehaven* Coal, and that it extends at least a Mile Square. The same Kind of Coal, has been also traced into the adjoining Lands of *Thomas Knox*, Esq; and probably will be found to run several miles East and West, both of the Lord Primate's and Mr. *Knox's* Collieries, so that Nature has largely provided for us, if we are not wanting to ourselves.

Query VIII. Is there any Likelihood, that there is in this Tract of Ground a Sufficiency for the supplying the Demand you expect will be made for it, in the City of *Dublin*?

This I will presume to say, with the Querist's Favour, is another very idle and needless Question; for all who fully know these Collieries, could have answer'd it in the Affirmative, had he not been too angry, or too hasty for the Enquiry. This has also been asserted, in the Reply to some former Queries, and it is undoubted, that there is a Certainty, not only as to the Goodness, but as to the Quantity of the caking Coal, and that it will both deserve the Preference, and be equal to any Demand that can be made for it.

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Query IX. Is not the Distance of this Coal, at least, three Miles from the Head of the Canal, and will not the Expence of the Land Carriage, make it impracticable to have it sold at *Dublin*, at an underate to that of the *Whitehaven* Coal?

As to the Distance of the Lord Primate's Coal, from the Head of the Canal, which the Querist makes such a Noise with, it has been owned already, to be nearly three Miles. But as great a Difficulty, as the wise Querist would have this appear, it is by no Means unsurmountable. The Expence of this Land Carriage may undoubtedly be reduced by a Waggon Way, so as to undersel the *Whitehaven* Collieries, or at least reduce their Prices considerably.

Query X. Have you a Descent for a Waggon Way, and if there is, at whose Expence will it be made, and at what Price will the Coal be put on Board, at the Head of the Canal, in order to its being brought to *Dublin*?

The Querist here has stumbled accidentally on a Question of some Weight; for tho' it is certain, that there is a proper Descent, and as easy and gradual as can be desired, for a Waggon Way from the Pitts, on the Lord Primate's Estate to the Canal; yet it is as true that the making that Way will be attended with some Expence. This it is obvious, must necessarily raise the Price of those Coals in Proportion, unless our good Parliament shall (as they have never failed to do, upon the like important Occasions) think proper to help the Proprietors, and ease that Burthen, by a very moderate Bounty, and in such Case, those Coals may be shipped on the Canal, at 6 Shillings *per* Tun, and possibly something under, that Price.

Query XI. Have you a Fire Engine, or what other Engine, for pumping up your Water, in the
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Lord Primate's Colliery, or by what Means, do you propose to carry on a Work of Consequence there?

Tho' I believe the Querist very well knew, there is no Fire Engine at present, and perhaps imagined (as the Expence of that, with the Shafts and other Works, will come to full 2000 *l.*) that the Proprietors would not go into so large an Expence; yet I can positively assure him, he is deceived. A Fire Engine is very soon intended, to be erected in the Lord Primate's Colliery, and a Work will be set on foot there, so as to raise any Quantity of Coal immediately, which there can be a Demand for. Bricks are burned in order to build a Fire-Engine, in the mean Time (as was said before) an Horse Engine is set up (as I suppose the Querist knows) in order to draw off the Water.

Query XII. Is not the Coal you now raise in the *Stewart's Town* Collieries, of a bad Quality, and fit only for the use of Smiths, or for the burning of Lime and Bricks?

The Querist has been told already, that there are three different Sorts of Coal in those Works, and that each of them will be undoubtedly saleable at *Dublin*. As to that Kind of Coal which is for the Use of Smiths, and for burning of Lime and Bricks, as it excels any imported, for every one of those uses, it is computed that no less than 20,000 Tuns of it, will be sold annually. As to the Kendal and the other Coal, of both which there is a great abundance in that Colliery, large Quantities of each will unquestionably be sold in *Dublin* to the vast Advantage of that City, and indeed of the whole Kingdom.

Query XIII. Is it not notorious to all that Country, that you have no Body of Coal. to be depended on in any of the Works, you have within the Li-
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mits of your Partnership ; except perhaps, in the Lord Primate's Colliery ? and what can you say as to the Price the Lord Primate's Coal can be sold for in *Dublin* ?

The Querist here (whether thro' Misinformation, or Malevolence, I cannot say which) would mislead his Readers, or is egregiously Mislead himself. But I must calmly but peremptorily tell him and them, that it is notorious to all, who have any sufficient Knowledge in Coal Mines, and have viewed with Care and free from Prejudice, the *Tyrone* Collieries ; that there are immense Quantities of Coal, within the Limits of the two Companies. This has been already mentioned, in answer to a former Query, but there is no End of answering a busy Impertinence, or a rooted, and perhaps, a Self-interested Malevolence. As to the Price, for which the Lord Primate's Coal may be sold at *Dublin*, I wish it may not grieve the Querist, when I assure him, that the most exact Computations, do not make it exceed 12 Shillings *per* Tun.

Query XIV. At what Time will you be prepared, to supply the City of *Dublin* with 20,000 Tun of Coal yearly ?

I shall answer this Query I believe, quite contrary to the Letter-writers Expectations, tho' I will not say to his Hopes. Let him be told then once for all, that the several Collieries, now actually at Work, are fully prepared to supply their Countrymen with more than double that Quantity of excellent *Irish* Coal, and this Account any one who pleases may on my Credit, publish either in *Dublin* or *Whitehaven*, or any other Place where he thinks it will be the most Agreeable.

The Querist now quits his plausible Objections to the Proprietors and the Coal of the *Tyrone* Works, and the kind Fears he manifests for their Interests,
and

and Points his Batteries as this deep Polititian calls them, against the Canals ; and tho' this is a national Affair, in which the Proprietors can no ways be called to defend themselves, and which the Care of the Publick, will 'tis hoped, soon render needless ; yet to leave the Letter-writer quite nonplust, I shall answer every one of them, in the same candid open Manner, I did the following ones.

His XVth. Query is as follows ; If you say the Canals are imperfect and defective, is it not properly your Business to represent this to the Navigation Board ?

To this it is answered, that it is to be hoped, the Proprietors know, and will follow their own Business and Interest, without wanting any Hints or Directions from their good Friend the Querist. But People who love to be meddling and complaining, where they have little to do, may be told, that an Account of the Imperfections and Defects of the Canal, was actually presented to that worthy Board sometime since. Nay, I will give them fuller Information, and which possibly, they neither expected, nor desired to know ; and that is, that there is no doubt, but that honourable Board, will thro' their usual Regard to the national Interest, and the Prosperity of our home Collieries, soon remedy every Defect complained of, and effectually remove all this sagacious Gentleman's Concern for us.

Query XVI. Is it true, that the high Level in the Newry Canal, can never be supplied with Water, so as to make it navigable at all Times ; and if so, how is it possible that any Quantity of Coal, from any of your Collieries, can be brought to Dublin ?

This Objection has been often made, and industriously propagated by People, who I verily believe, were not influenced by any Malevolence to the Collieries

lieries or the Kingdom; but barely from their Fears of the Miscarriage of so good and useful an Undertaking. I myself, for some Time, was alarmed, with Doubts on this Point, but Evidence and Reason soon removed them; and I can now affirm of my own Knowledge, that the high Level in the *Newry* Canal, may be supplied with Water at all Times; and that the Board have given Directions, to have this done immediately, nor will the Expence be any way considerable.

Query XVII. Are there not also other Obstacles, and such as cannot be removed, and which it is evident, from the Nature of them, will perpetually stop the Inland Navigation in dry Seasons?

Here the Querist imagines with some Triumph, that Nature is as much against our envied Undertaking, as his Inclinations. But I will assure him he is here as much mistaken as ever; for it has been carefully considered, by Persons of the greatest Judgment and Experience in such Matters, and now agreed by all, that every Difficulty attending the Inland Navigation, in dry Seasons of the Year; may certainly be obviated, and at no large Expence, considering the greatness of the Gain the Kingdom will reap by it.

Query XVIII. Are there not Bars of Sand in *Lough-neagh*, before the Mouths of the *Ban* and *Black-water*, and how is it possible to remove them?

Here are some more of our Author's invincible Difficulties, which his good will to us, has probably pick'd up, from vulgar Reports, and the Apprehensions of People who are apt to be frightened at little Obstacles, and inclined to Despair before they are in Danger. For tho' there are such Bars as the Letter-writer mentions, yet it is absolutely certain, that

that they may be avoided, and the Navigation a-croſs the *Lough Neagh*, eaſily ſhortned and improved. In order to avoid that Bar, which lies at the Mouth of the Black water, there is a Cut already made from that River into the *Lough*. The other Bar may alſo be as eaſily avoided, by a Cut of the like Nature; a Plan of which, with an Eſtimate of the Expence, (which will be found inconfiderable) is prepar'd by the Director, and will ſoon be laid before the Board, for their Approbation.

Query XIX. If theſe can be removed, is it practicable to raiſe Banks on the Sides of the *Ban* and *Black-water*, where thoſe Rivers are made Part of the Inland Navigation, and without Banks for the Tracking of Boats, how is it poſſible to carry on the Inland Navigation?

This it muſt be allowed is a real Difficulty, but not as great an one, as the Letter-writer would gladly make it. Indeed it muſt be confeſt, that there are no Banks, along the Sides of the *Ban* and the *Black-water*, where thoſe Rivers are Part of the Inland Navigation; but yet it is found by Experience, that the Navigation is not greatly obſtructed by the want of tracking Paths, and it is now carried on by warping Poſts ſet up for that Purpoſe. It is undoubted, however, that the Uſe of thoſe Paths, where they can be had, is very ſerviceable, and I queſtion not, when our Coal Trade to *Dublin* is ſettled and compleated, theſe will in due Time be alſo adjusted, with little Expence, and great Advantage to it.

Query XX. As to the Locks already made, is there one of them ſo ſtanch as to hold Water, and is there not in every one of them, an immense Waſte of Water?

The sagacious Letter-writer, is here misinform'd again, for the Locks lately made in the upper Canal, are all of them perfectly staunch : As to the others, tho' some of them (chiefly through the Decay of the Timbers) are spouty, yet those Defects are easily amended. A moderate Care will remedy what is faulty in them, and no Doubt, a few Repairs will prevent any Water, being lost in dry Seasons.

Query XXI. If on the whole, the Canals cannot be compleated, and the Objections to the Collieries are not to be removed, how is it possible your Project should succeed, or the Nation be benefitted by it ?

As this is the Letter-writers last Query, I am so pleased to have done with him, that I am loth to part with him in Anger, or heap Confusion upon him. Yet I would be glad to know (by asking him a Question in my Turn) on what Account it is that he uses the Expressions here, of your Project ? I think the *Newry* Canal was the Project of the whole Legislature, and the Intent of it, was the supplying *Dublin* with our own Coal. If this can be done (and I take upon me to say, nothing can prevent its being done, but our own too general and too frequent Supineness and Infatuation) sure no-body need be ashamed, to have projected, to have patroniz'd, or to have lent an helping Hand to so useful an Undertaking. It needs no great Skill in political Arithmetick, to compute what immense Sums we shall save, and what extraordinary Advantages we shall actually gain by it, if once our own Coal can be brought to *Dublin* at moderate Prices. Nor is this all, for when we have acquir'd Skill and Experience by managing our Collieries in *Tyrone*, we may extend our Improvements, to other Parts of our Country. We have, it is well known,

known, a considerable Number of Coal Mines, in many of our in-land Counties, which may in Time be opened here, as they have been gradually in *England*, in different Shires, to the vast Emolument of their Trade and Manufactures. Nay Numbers of their Collieries, are situated far from Rivers, and come dear to the Consumers, by the high Price of Land-carriage. Whereas this Kingdom is so admirably interspers'd, by Loughs and Rivers, and vast Creeks of the Sea, which run far into the Land; that by these natural Advantages, and the Help of artificial Canals, which may be form'd, (where the Conveniences of new Collieries may make it necessary) we may in Time, convey our Firing, to the very Doors of our Manufacturers. Who can be ignorant, what a vast Tax dear Coals are, on all concern'd in producing or working up any Commodity, for our own Use or Exportation. Nor is it less notorious, that if ever we hope to see such thriving and industrious Towns, in this Part of the World, as *Birmingham, Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool, &c.* they must be built and maintained by the Conveniences of neighbouring Coal Works.

It would be a needless Detail to an intelligent Reader, to shew what Advantage they are of, to the burning Kilns of Brick, Tiles of all Sorts, and Lime; or how necessary these are to building, and how useful to the Improvement of our Towns or our Lands. Every one knows that the Works of many different Tradesmen, must either greatly suffer, or as absolutely stop without them, as the Forges of our Smiths, or our Foundries. Our Glass, Steel, Iron, Earthen, and several other Manufactures, depend eminently on them and their Price; and even in our Linnen and Woollen Business, we can do nothing to Purpose without them.

It is true, while this Island was over-run with Woods and unprofitable Bogs, we were in less want of them; but the former are in a Manner quite gone, and in another Century, the *Dublin Society*, if sufficiently assisted by Parliament, will grudge us the burning the Remains of the latter, which they are draining and plowing up, as fast as they can. This makes it necessary for us, to look about us in Time, and take care both of setting up new, and improving our old Collieries to the best Advantage. This last Blessing has been shewn to be in our Power, and our Querist's plausible Objections against them, have methinks, been fully answered; and though, to avoid asserting actual Falsities, that Author has palliated his subtle Attacks, under the Disguise of Queries, yet I think I have by plain candid Truths, evidently shewn his Mistakes, or his Artifices; and that his Insinuations as to our Collieries, are but vulgar Errors, or fraudulent Pretences. I hope I am not partial to myself, when I say, that I imagine, I have prov'd that his Objections as to our Canals, are also weak and trifling; or at best, easily obviated, and generally founded on common Reports, or insidious Representations of Things, that have no Foundation in Truth and Facts. As the Cause I support is fair and honest, and needs neither Palliatives nor Subterfuges, I have detested all the little Arts of Party-writing, in making its Defence. With the same View, and the same Freedom of thinking and speaking, what I know is right, I shall allow that the Canal may have cost us, by a fair Estimate, about 45000 *l.* but I must aver at the same Time, that as a few Thousands more will compleat it; the whole Expence, large as it seems, is a trifling Purchase, for the prodigious Advantages it will evidently

dently secure to us. As this is undoubtedly the Case, it is to be hoped that the Querist's Attack both on that and the Collieries, may rather promote and serve, than discredit or destroy that happy Design. Possibly his outrageous and unprovoked Attempt, may contribute to awaken its Friends, instead of encouraging the undermining Artifices of its Maligners; since it is plain we are deeply interested, in the Support of that generous Enterprize, and perfecting it as speedily as we can.

There is not the smallest Doubt, but every Member of our Navigation Board, will, like true Patriots, exert themselves, in compleating this important Work which they have so happily carried on; they will, with their usual Zeal and Spirit, take effectual Care, that after so considerable an Expence on our favourite Canals, they do not any longer lie useless and unserviceable, when a moderate Cost and Care, must render them and our Coal, of such infinite Service to our present Manufactures, and those which (encouraged by the Cheapness of our Firing) may hereafter be set up in this Island, which begins to feel what Industry and Labour may produce for her Service. They are too just, and too kind, to let the Proprietors suffer by the Loss of such large Sums, and so much Skill and Application, as their Collieries have already cost them; and will **not** let them be undone by their risking so much of their Fortunes, for the enriching and blessing the whole of their Country. To conclude, when so noble, so useful, so saving and gainful a Design, is now come so near its Perfection, and so secure of Success, if they continue to protect it, they will never let their own Child perish at their Door, for want of a little
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Care and Zeal, to make it so prodigiously useful to the Kingdom, and at the same Time, an Honour to themselves, and the very Name and Character of *Ireland* !

And here I gladly put an End, to this uneasy, but well-intentioned Labour, of answering our very busy Querist. I have treated him with all possible Lenity and Indulgence, as this is the first Attack, but I must whisper in his Ear, that if he returns to hurt our Country, he must, like some Persons we Transport abroad, expect a severer Trial and Sentence, from

P U B L I C O L A.

F I N I S.



